

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00965 230908Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 PRS-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01
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-----106273 230916Z /21
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0753
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PINS, IS(ESMAIL, SAMI)
SUBJ: CAMPAIGN IN U.S. TO AID SAMI ESMail

REF: STATE 17259

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE SWORN STATEMENT MADE BY SAMI
ESMAIL BEFORE AMCONSUL JAMES E. KERR, JR. AT PETACH TIKVA
PRISON, ISRAEL, DECEMBER 30, 1977:

QUOTE

I WAS INTERROGATED ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY SINCE I WAS ARRESTED
DECEMBER 21, 1977 RIGHT AT THE AIRPORT. AT LEAST SIX
PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN QUESTIONING ME CONTINUOUSLY. ONE
TIME I ALMOST FELL ASLEPP WHILE BEING INTERROGATED AND ONLY
AFTER I WAS ABOUT TO FALL DOWN - IN FACT I THINK I DID FALL
DOWN - WAS I LET TO GO TO SLEEP FOR AN HOUR OR TWO.
I WAS ALWAYS TOLD THERE WAS NO DEMOCRACY HERE AND THAT I
LEFT IT ON THE PLANE. NO-ONE WOULD EVER KNOW I WAS HERE.
LATER, WHEN MARK DAVISON CAME, IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE THEY
ASKED HIM. I COULDN'T EVEN SPEAK TO A LAWYER. I WAS TOLD
IN THE BEGINNING. IF I DIDN'T SPEAK, I COULDN'T EVEN SEE MY
DYING FATHER, WHO WAS SO OLD THEY IMPLIED THAT HE WASN'T WORTH
SEEING. I WAS TOLD AT TIMES THAT MY WHOLE FAMILY WOULD BE
BROUGHT HERE AND PUT IN JAIL BECAUSE OF ME. I WAS MADE TO
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TAKE OFF MY COAT, SEATER AND SHIRT AND STAND HALF-NAKED - AT
LEAST TWICE. I WAS MADE EARLY IN THE MORNING, 2:00 AM, ONCE
TO STAND AGAINST THE WALL AND LIFT MY HANDS HIGH OVER MY HEAD.
ONCE I WAS MADE TO CARRY A CHAIR OVER MY HEAD. ONCE I WAS
PUNCHED - BUT NOT VERY HARD - AGAINST THE CHEST. MY HAIR WAS
PULLED AT A FEW TIMES. MY MOUSTACHE WAS PULLED AT. I WAS
SPIT AT AND SLAPPED AT ONE TIME. MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE

CURSED AT IN ARABIC - LIKE SCREW YOUR MOTHER AND DAMN YOUR FATHER. I WAS SAID THAT IF MY FATHER DIED, I WOULD BE THE CAUSE.

INTERROGATION CONTINUED AT LATE HOURS OF THE NIGHT EVEN AFTER MARK DAVISON PROTESTED TO THE SECURITY GUARD. ALSO AT ONE TIME I WAS TOLD I WOULD GET A COLD-WATER TREATMENT. ONCE, ONE OF THE INTERROGATORS DID PICK A STICK UP AND THREATEN TO STRIKE ME. I WAS TOLD THAT I WOULD BE DETAINED AS LONG AS THEY FELT LIKE IT WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO SEE ANYONE. THEY SAID IT WAS NO PROBLEM TO HOLD ME 15, DAYS, 15 MORE, 15 MORE, 30 MORE AND 150 DAYS MORE AND AS LONG AS NECESSARY AND I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE ANYONE OR TALK TO ANYONE.

ACTUALLY, MY NERVES WERE SO WRECKED UP, I WAS JUST BEGGING TO DIE. IF I COULD HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE AT A TIME, I WOULD HAVE. I TRIED TO DIE BY NOT EATING FOR SOME FIVE DAYS IN THE BEGINNING. UNQUOTE
LEWIS

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NNN

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